

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image display apparatus comprising:  
at least one image forming element; and  
an illumination optical system for illuminating  
5 said image forming element with light from a light  
source,  
wherein an image is formed through modulation of said  
light by said image forming element, and said  
illumination optical system can vary a light intensity  
10 distribution of said light on said image forming  
element.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said apparatus can supply a plurality of different  
15 distributions as the light intensity distribution of  
said light on said image forming element.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said apparatus can vary the light intensity  
20 distribution of said light in an effective region of  
said image forming element.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:  
said illumination optical system has a secondary  
25 light source forming member for forming a plurality of  
secondary light sources; and  
when said image forming element is illuminated

with a plurality of light beams from said plurality of secondary light sources, projection magnifications of a part or all of said plurality of light beams to said image forming element are changed so as to make

- 5      switchable the relationship of the number of overlapping light beams in a central portion of said image forming element and the number of overlapping light beams in a peripheral portion of said image forming element between different and the same, thereby  
10     varying the light intensity distribution in an effective region of said image forming element.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:  
15     said illumination optical system has a secondary light source forming member for forming a plurality of secondary light sources; and  
when said image forming element is illuminated with a plurality of light beams from said plurality of secondary light sources, the number of overlapping light beams in a central portion of said image forming element is structured to be larger than the number of overlapping light beams in a peripheral portion of said image forming element, and projection magnifications of said plurality of light beams to said image forming element are changed, thereby varying the light intensity distribution in an effective region of said image forming element.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
said illumination optical system comprises a light  
condensing optical element and varies said distribution  
by moving said light condensing optical element in a  
5 direction of an optical axis.

7. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1,  
4, and 5, wherein said illumination optical system  
comprises at least one lens array as a secondary light  
10 source forming member for forming a plurality of  
secondary light sources, and varies said distribution  
by moving at least a part of said at least one lens  
array.

15 8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
said illumination optical system varies said  
distribution by moving at least a part of said at least  
one lens array in a direction of an optical axis.

20 9. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
said illumination optical system varies said  
distribution by moving at least a part of said at least  
one lens array in a direction perpendicular to an  
optical axis.

25

10. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
said illumination optical system varies said

distribution by rotating at least a part of said at  
least one lens array.

11. An image display apparatus comprising:

5       at least one image forming element; and  
an illumination optical system for illuminating  
said image forming element with light from a light  
source,

10      wherein an image is formed through modulation of said  
light by said image forming element, and said  
illumination optical system can vary an illumination  
distribution in an effective region of said image  
forming element.

15      12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said apparatus can supply a plurality of different  
distributions as said distribution.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:  
20      said illumination optical system has a secondary  
light source forming member for forming a plurality of  
secondary light sources; and  
when said image forming element is illuminated  
with a plurality of light beams from said plurality of  
25     secondary light sources, projection magnifications of a  
part or all of said plurality of light beams to said  
image forming element are changed so as to make

switchable the relationship of the number of  
overlapping light beams in a central portion of said  
image forming element and the number of overlapping  
light beams in a peripheral portion of said image  
5 forming element between different and the same, thereby  
varying said distribution.

14. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:  
said illumination optical system has a secondary  
10 light source forming member for forming a plurality of  
secondary light sources; and

when said image forming element is illuminated  
with a plurality of light beams from said plurality of  
secondary light sources, the number of overlapping  
15 light beams in a central portion of said image forming  
element is structured to be larger than the number of  
overlapping light beams in a peripheral portion of said  
image forming element, and projection magnifications of  
said plurality of light beams to said image forming  
20 element are changed, thereby varying said distribution.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein  
said illumination optical system comprises a light  
condensing optical element and varies said distribution  
25 by moving said light condensing optical element in a  
direction of an optical axis.

16. An apparatus according to any one of claims  
11, 13, and 14, wherein said illumination optical  
system comprises at least one lens array as a secondary  
light source forming member for forming a plurality of  
secondary light sources, and varies said distribution  
by moving at least a part of said at least one lens  
array.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said illumination optical system varies said  
distribution by moving at least a part of said at least  
one lens array in a direction of an optical axis.

18. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said illumination optical system varies said  
distribution by moving at least a part of said at least  
one lens array in a direction perpendicular to an  
optical axis.

19. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said illumination optical system varies said  
distribution by rotating at least a part of said at  
least one lens array.

20. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 11,  
further comprising:  
a projection optical system for projecting an

image formed by said image forming element on a projection surface, wherein said apparatus includes a plurality of image forming elements, and said projection optical system overlappingly projects on 5 said projection surface images formed by said plurality of image forming elements.

21. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said image forming elements are for red, green, and 10 blue, respectively and said apparatus further comprises a plurality of dichroic mirrors for combining colors from said image forming elements.

22. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein 15 said image forming elements are for red, green, and blue, respectively and said apparatus further comprises a plurality of dichroic prisms for combining colors from said image forming elements.

20 23. An image display system comprising:  
an apparatus according to claim 1 or 11; and  
an image recording apparatus for supplying an  
image signal to said apparatus according to claim 1 or  
11.

25 24. An image display system comprising:  
an apparatus according to claim 1 or 11; and

a computer for supplying an image signal to said apparatus.

25. An illumination system comprising:

5        a secondary light source forming member for forming a plurality of secondary light sources from light from a light source,  
wherein an illumination surface is illuminated with a plurality of light beams from said plurality of  
10      secondary light sources, and projection magnifications of a part or all of said plurality of light beams to said illuminated surface are changed, thereby varying an illumination distribution on said illuminated surface.

15

26. An illumination system according to claim 25, wherein said distribution is varied by switching the relationship of the number of overlapping light beams in a central portion of said illuminated surface and the number of overlapping light beams in a peripheral portion of said illuminated surface between different and the same.

27. An illumination system according to claim 25,  
25      wherein the number of overlapping light beams in a central portion of said illuminated surface is structured to be larger than the number of overlapping

light beams in a peripheral portion of said illuminated surface, and projection magnifications of said plurality of light beams to said illuminated surface are changed, thereby varying said distribution in an effective region of said illuminated surface.

28. An illumination system according to claim 25, comprising:

at least one lens array as said secondary light source forming member; and  
10 a light condensing optical element,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving said light condensing optical element in a direction of an optical axis.

15 29. An illumination system according to claim 27,  
comprising:

at least one lens array as said secondary light source forming member; and  
20 a light condensing optical element,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving said light condensing optical element in a direction of an optical axis.

25 30. An illumination system according to claim 25,  
comprising:

at least one lens array as said secondary light

source forming member; and

a light condensing optical element,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array.

5

31. An illumination system according to claim 30,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array in a direction  
of an optical axis.

10

32. An illumination system according to claim 30,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array in a direction  
perpendicular to an optical axis.

15

33. An illumination system according to claim 30,  
wherein said distribution is varied by rotating at  
least a part of said at least one lens array.

20

34. An illumination system according to claim 26,  
comprising:

at least one lens array as said secondary light  
source forming member; and

a light condensing optical element,  
25 wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array.

RECORDED - 552050

35. An illumination system according to claim 34,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array in a direction  
of an optical axis.

5

36. An illumination system according to claim 34,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array in a direction  
perpendicular to an optical axis.

10

37. An illumination system according to claim 34,  
wherein said distribution is varied by rotating at  
least a part of said at least one lens array.

15

38. An illumination system comprising:  
a secondary light source forming member for  
forming a plurality of secondary light sources from  
light from a light source,  
wherein an illuminated surface is illuminated with a  
plurality of light beams from said plurality of  
secondary light sources, and projection magnifications  
of a part or all of said plurality of light beams to  
said illuminated surface are changed, thereby varying  
an illumination distribution in an effective region of  
said illuminated surface.

20

25

39. An illumination system according to claim 38,

wherein said distribution is varied by switching the relationship of the number of overlapping light beams in a central portion of said illuminated surface and the number of overlapping light beams in a peripheral portion of said illuminated surface between different and the same.

40. An illumination system according to claim 38,  
wherein the number of overlapping light beams in a  
central portion of said illuminated surface is  
structured to be larger than the number of overlapping  
light beams in a peripheral portion of said illuminated  
surface, and projection magnifications of said  
plurality of light beams to said illuminated surface  
are changed, thereby varying said distribution.

41. An illumination system according to claim 38,  
comprising:

at least one lens array as said secondary light  
source forming member; and  
a light condensing optical element,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving said  
light condensing optical element in a direction of an  
optical axis.

25

42. An illumination system according to claim 40,  
comprising:

at least one lens array as said secondary light source forming member; and

a light condensing optical element,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving said  
light condensing optical element in a direction of an  
optical axis.

43. An illumination system according to claim 38,  
comprising:

at least one lens array as said secondary light source forming member; and

a light condensing optical element,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least a part of said at least one lens array.

44. An illumination system according to claim 43,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least a part of said at least one lens array in a direction of an optical axis.

45. An illumination system according to claim 43,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least a part of said at least one lens array in a direction perpendicular to an optical axis.

46. An illumination system according to claim 43,  
wherein said distribution is varied by rotating at

least a part of said at least one lens array.

47. An illumination system according to claim 39,  
comprising:

5       at least one lens array as said secondary light  
source forming member; and

          a light condensing optical element,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array.

10

48. An illumination system according to claim 47,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array in a direction  
of an optical axis.

15

49. An illumination system according to claim 47,  
wherein said distribution is varied by moving at least  
a part of said at least one lens array in a direction  
perpendicular to an optical axis.

20

50. An illumination system according to claim 47,  
wherein said distribution is varied by rotating at  
least a part of said at least one lens array.

25

51. An image display apparatus comprising:  
          at least one image forming element; and  
          an illumination system according to claim 25 or 38

SEARCHED  
INDEXED  
COPIED  
SERIALIZED  
FILED

for illuminating said at least one image forming element with light from a light source.

52. An apparatus according to claim 51, further  
5 comprising:

a projection optical system for projecting an image formed by said image forming element on a projection surface, wherein said apparatus further comprises a plurality of image forming elements and  
10 said projection optical system overlappingly projects on said projection surface images formed by said plurality of image forming elements.

53. An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein  
15 said plurality of image forming elements are for red, green, and blue, respectively and said apparatus further comprises a plurality of dichroic mirrors for combining colors from said image forming elements.

20 54. An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein said plurality of image forming elements are for red, green, and blue, respectively and said apparatus further comprises a plurality of dichroic prisms for combining colors from said image forming elements.

25

55. An image display system comprising:  
an apparatus according to claim 51; and

an image recording apparatus for supplying an image signal to said apparatus.

5        56. An image display system comprising:  
an apparatus according to claim 51; and  
a computer for supplying an image signal to said apparatus.

10        57. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 11 further comprising a projection optical system for projecting an image formed by said image forming element on a projection surface, wherein said apparatus has a single image forming element and said projection optical system projects the image formed by said single image forming element on the projection surface.  
15

20        58. An apparatus according to claim 51 further comprising a projection optical system for projecting an image formed by said image forming element on a projection surface, wherein said apparatus has a single image forming element and said projection optical system projects the image formed by said single image forming element on the projection surface.

SEARCHED - SERIALIZED - INDEXED - FILED